

Earth First!

Issue no. 91 December 03

50p/Donation



Action Update

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Destroy your Oppressors - Arm your Desires!



CONTRIBUTE!

We need you to contribute to the EF! Action Update (it doesn't write itself ya know). Send us your action reports, news, events, personal accounts, letters, rants, reflections, short articles, artwork, prisoner info and any feedback.



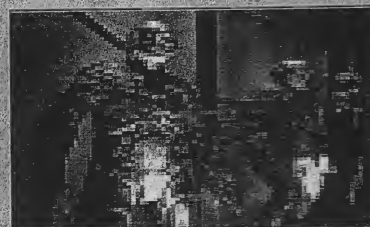
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Earth First! is (deep breath) not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar ideas to work under. The general principles behind EF! are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants." The Action Update is passed to a different group each year (it's currently coming out of a bedsit in Brighton) - the views expressed here do not represent those of any living organism, only that of a mythical collective being.

THESSALONIKI 7 RELEASED!

As we are going to press we have heard news that the Thessaloniki hunger strikers have been released!

The Thessaloniki 7 were arrested at the EU summit demonstrations in Greece on June 21st and had been imprisoned awaiting trial.



Five of the seven prisoners had been on hunger strike, demanding to be released on bail until trial and for one prisoner (Castro) to not be deported to Syria, where he faces the death penalty due to trade union activity.

Suleiman 'Castro' Dakduk was the first to go on hunger for this reason and has not eaten for 66 days. Three others, Carlos Martinez, Simon Chapman (pictured) and Fernando Perez joined him on the October 5th totaling 52 days. Spiros Tsitsas began on the 8th October and was on strike for 50 days.

They were falsely imprisoned and were being held in a maximum security prison, denied bail on trumped up charges and all of them had been beaten and tortured by Greek police. They were held in solitary confinement, denied visiting rights and denied access to their legal representatives. Even on the night of November 10th, when they were moved in a critically ill state to a prison hospital, they were still handcuffed!

At the time of going to press we do not know how bad the state of the prisoners health is. All of the prisoners had suffered irreversible damage to their organs and were entering the final stages of hunger strike when they were unexpectedly released.

Simon Chapman, from Basildon - Essex, was still being denied bail even though there is overwhelming video and photographic evidence from Reuters, AP and the Greek state news channel EP3 proving his innocence. Reuters have just released a third photo. There is also new video evidence from a private T.V. channel showing Greek Police filling black bags with molotov petrol bombs at the demonstration, which they claimed belonged to the defendants.

The purpose of the EU summit in June was to further fortify Fortress Europe - standardising immigration controls, creating an EU super state, with its own repressive anti terrorist legislation and forming a common EU army. Anyone who resists this further concentration of power can expect the same response from EU nation states as the Thessaloniki 7 received.

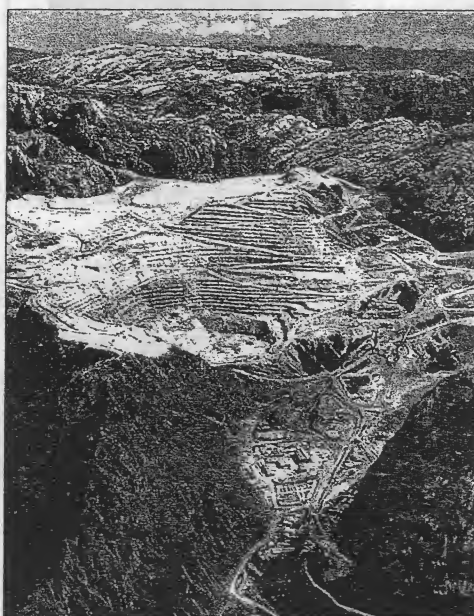
It should never have come to the point where people have no alternative but to commit themselves to dying in a slow agonising painful death to demonstrate how corrupt a government is. The UK and other governments failure to act in this case proves that they were willing to comply with the Greek government and let their own citizens die in Greek prisons.

This sort of reaction by governments, to those who oppose their new regime, may become more common as times get tougher and resources get scarcer. Richer nations continue to coalesce their power and to exploit the earths resources and inhabitants. Only through solidarity will our resistance not be crushed.

MISSIONARIES, MINES AND MALARIA

Update on the Solidarity South Pacific campaign

Solidarity South Pacific exists to support tribal, anarchist and ecological struggles primarily in the Philippines, West Papua and Bougainville.



Papuans are stepping up their resistance to the hated Freeport/RTZ Mine on their land. The mine, which is responsible for large scale deforestation and the poisoning of water systems as well as displacing indigenous communities, is widely hated and in the past has been the scene of state massacres and guerrilla sabotage.

Papuans had announced they were going to demonstrate at the Freeport offices in the Indonesian capital and requested a presence in London so that the RTZ board knew they were being watched. They hoped that this would help lower repression. Thus on October 24th thirteen people picketed the

offices of RTZ in London for two hours, haranguing top corporate staff as they came back from their lunch-break. The following night RTZ received more unwanted attention in the form of the smashing of their ground floor windows.

300 people from the AMP (Alliance of Papuan Students) and DEMMAK (Koteka Tribal Assembly) came together in Jakarta a few days later outside the Freeport offices. Banners proclaimed their opposition to RTZ-Freeport.

The plan had been to take over the office and challenge the management, but a huge police presence blocked the way.

"..you suck my blood until it is all drained and I remain only bones without flesh." Mama Yosepha, Papuan Tribeswoman to the CEO of Freeport.

At the time of the demonstrations the mine itself was shut and remains partially closed now following a landslide which killed eight workers. The closure is believed to have cost the mine over 10% of its profits for the year.

Back in West Papua the tribal guerrillas of the OPM struck another blow against 'development' on November 3rd. Four construction workers who were building colonial schools and offices in the remote highland village of Enarotali were killed and one policeman was wounded in the attack. Over their 40 year struggle the OPM have repeatedly stated through word and action - 'Just Leave Us Alone!'. Sadly only two days later, on the other side of the central mountain range in the village of Yallenga six OPM fighters and four other villagers were shot dead by the Indonesian army in an early morning raid.

One of the main aspects of SSP's work is raising money to provide direct aid to tribal struggles. In October we completed a delivery of medical aid to West Papuans. This was accompanied by training on its use, and discussions on western and traditional tribal medicine. The aid is not intended for general day to day use for which their traditional medicine is more appropriate. It included various items to treat those wounded by the military, as well as anti-malarials for those who have been forced down from the mountains and have no natural defences against malaria.

Another shipment of medicine was sent to the MDF no-go zone in Central Bougainville. Having successfully gained independence against the corporate and military might of RTZ, Papua New Guinea and Australia, the island is now split into 3 areas. The MDF zone is the smallest and also the most hard-line in terms of not wanting any corporations or outsiders at all.



Saturday November 8th, a demonstration was held at the Head Quarters of the New Tribes Mission in Lincolnshire. The NTM are an evangelical group of missionaries whose scary aim is to 'plant a church in every uncontacted tribal village by 2025'. They are active in the South Pacific and South America where they fly over jungle and mountains looking for tribes to convert to their extreme brand of Christianity. The

village of North Cotes, where NTM is based, was leafleted the morning of the demo giving them information about NTM's activities.

This received a mixed reception - some villagers were very welcoming to the other side of the story, whilst others were on the side of the missionaries. The leafleting caused some alarm to the missionaries as back in the 1980s they were driven out of their old premises by a hostile local population. The local people asked the demonstrators to return and give a talk about NTM's activities at a later date.

Take Action:

We continue to raise money to provide medical aid to W. Papua and Bougainville. Send cheques made payable to 'Agta Support Group' to the address below.

Get on the SSP email list. This will keep you informed about what is going on with the campaign.

From time to time it is helpful for people from the West to travel out to these areas to make links, deliver aid etc. Get in touch if you might be able to do this.

Prisoner support. We have been very successful in improving the conditions of prisoners, and even in helping them get out! You can keep the pressure on by writing/phoning. More details on our website.

For a free copy of the SSP newsletter send an SAE to the address below:

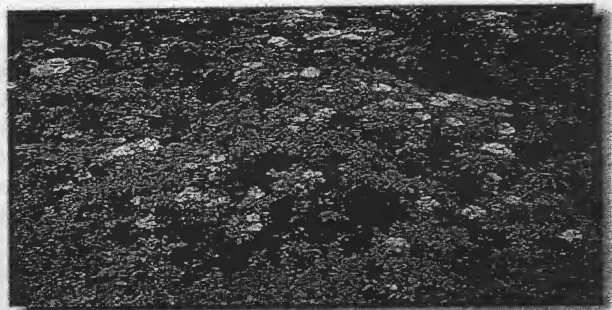
Solidarity South Pacific, c/o SDEF!, Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, E. Sussex, BN2 2GY

ssp@eco-action.org

www.eco-action.org/ssp

New site: www.westpapuanews.com

PAGE SIX TREE !



Respect yer elders !

Latin name: *sambucus nigra*

Range: Most temperate climes

Habitat: Likes well drained or chalky soils

Age: Unknown - some ancient elders have been recorded as having trunks six feet in girth.

The elder is to some a nuisance and to some a friend. A shrub like tree that rarely exceeds 30 feet in height, it grows wild in the southern England seemingly everywhere.

The tree is famous for its flowers that appear around June the flowering blossoms can be smelt on the breeze in the long days of this month and are used to make elderflower cordial. This fragrance it is said opens the portal to the faerie realms. The blossoms were thrown over couples at weddings to bring good luck, this custom survives as confetti today.

By autumn the red berries appear, they are loved by birds which greedily gobble the berries and their seeds thus propagating the species. The berries make great wine too!

The Elder has a dark reputation, for it was said all over western Europe that the tree contained 'the Elder Mother' who avenged all who harmed her trees. No forester would touch elder before asking permission three times and even now older people show respect to the tree by touching their hats as they pass by the tree. Certain Native American tribes believe that the elder is the mother of the human race.

Country folklore believes that if a person sleeps under the elder tree, they will never awaken and will be transported to the underworld, the pithy branches do however contain a mild sedative.

Romans and Britons believed that the Elder could cure all the ills of mankind, the bark is a diuretic, the young shoots are good as an expectorant, the juice of the leaves reduces inflammation of the eyes and the leaves fragrance clears the nose. Caution should be taken when using the Elder internally because they can cause nausea.

The Elder flowers have sudorific, diuretic, febrifuge and anti-rheumatic properties. Elder wood does not burn well at all, producing rather toxic smoke, but was added to the funeral pyre at cremations. The twigs were used as crowns for witches at Samhain ceremonies and elder was the primary wood used in Ireland for their broomstick handles.

ELF Austria

Apparently, earlier this month, the Earth Liberation Front released a communiqué in Austria which said that building machinery being used to build a motorway in Inzersdorewas was trashed. Inzersdorf is a part of Viennas South in Austria where the S1-highway is being built as a link from Schwechat to Vösendorf. Please send more info if you have it.

Machine bashing state side

On the 24th October some folk in Martinsville, Indiana USA visited the construction site for their new Wal-Mart superstore. They pulled up dozens of survey stakes, spraypainted building walls and machines. Sabotage was done to over a dozen pieces of heavy machinery and vehicles by putting sand in the fuel tanks, slashing tyres and cutting engine hoses and tubes. Before leaving they broke 20-30 construction machine windows.

They stated, 'For us, sabotage may not be a means to change any world but our own, as an expression of our feelings toward this society. We strike for ourselves, out of our own frustrations, and rage and despair...as a means of therapy and adventure. Because to not act, or to resign oneself to such an impoverished life of working and consuming is not good enough for us.'

UPRISING AGAINST METHANOL TERMINAL

During the summer there has been resistance in Azov in southern Russia against the building of a new methanol terminal.

The terminal, which is to built by a joint venture of the Italian multinational Triboldi and the Russian corporation Roshleboprodukt, would consist of 20,000m³ storage tanks, jetty, a high pressure methanol pipe and related infrastructure and would be only 400 metres from homes. The channel from Azov to the black sea is very shallow (averaging only 4.2 metres) increasing the likelihood of tankers sinking and releasing poisonous methanol into the sea which would completely destroy the ecosystem.

Local people and members of Autonomous Action and Rainbow Keepers blockaded the supply road to the site and the main highway, set up a protest site and there were angry demonstrations in Azov involving over 2000 people.

There was alot of police repression against those attempting to stop the construction of the terminal including arbitrary arrest and intimidation. When people tied to have a demonstration in Rostov-na-Donu(the largest city in South Russia 45km north of Azov) hundreds of police prevented people getting to Rostov by preventing the buses leaving Azov, searching trains, setting up roadblocks, raiding the campaign headquarters and making more arrests.

Despite this, on the 21st of August the authorities decided to halt the construction of the methanol terminal indefinitely.

To find out more what's happening in Eastern Europe, we recommend the excellent zine *Abolishing Borders from Below*. It's distributed by Active in the UK- email jon@activedistribution.

BAYER BASHING CONTINUES

As reported last issue actions are being taken against the company Bayer and its subsidiaries for their role in trying to push commercial planting of their GM crops in the U.K. Here is an overview of some of the actions that have taken place since the last issue. For more information about the campaign see www.stopbayergm.org.

23rd November: On a wet Sunday evening a group of 15 people paid a visit to Michael Gerad O'Brian (Director of Bayer CropScience) at his suburban Essex home.

20th November: Bayer Cropscience HQ in Hauxton was invaded by over 40 people. At around midday three smartly dressed individuals entered the main entrance and as one started to climb over the internal security barrier was told, "there is no need for that" by the security guard, who gave them all visitors passes! Entering the main building one of them opened up a fire exist, allowing people to rush out of their vehicles and into the building. People, in pairs and groups of three, systematically went through all the offices. Most people, once they had attained enough useful info, left by a side fire exist and went for a walk in the countryside before making their way home. Eight people were held in the building by police and a further two picked up in a nearby pub. All were arrested on suspicion of theft but released without charge and bailed to return. This was probably the most successful and useful action to date in the ongoing campaign to force Bayer out of GM. The information gleaned will be put to good use...

13th November: 100 people met outside Bayer's Newbury Office. Armed with pots, pans, drums and sound systems we made a horrible bloody noise for four hours. A small group of people tried to make their way around to the back of the building, where staff were leaving for lunch. The police quickly formed a line and pushed around 50 of us in to a pen. We were informed that under Section 14 we were only allowed to protest in this area - the pen - much more noise was made - until a solicitor confirmed what we knew - that they only could hold us if we continued to demonstrate. We all left and went down the pub. Acting in solidarity with those in Newbury, around 15 of us paid a visit to Martin Newson, Company Secretary of Bayer PLC with our own noisy demo outside his house. Some people chatted to his neighbours and received supportive comments when they explained why we were there.

10th November: The British Crop Protection Council had its conference from the 10th of November in Glasgow, followed by a corporate game of golf at Turnberry, Bayer were one of the main contributors to this international conference. In the night anti-Bayer activists visited the course. They damaged four areas where the holes are and two teeing off areas by digging up the turf, spraying weed killer and spraypainting messages on the turf proclaiming: "Bayer - no gm" and "BCPC - no gm". Nobody was arrested..

5th November: Activists entered the Bayer Crop Science chemicals facility in Widnes, Cheshire by merely scrambling under a gate. They wandered around, security followed, and were given a guided tour of sorts by a security guard called Homer he claimed that in fact Bayer care about the environment more than activists realise. As proof, the intruders were shown the gold fish pond. Leaflets were distributed, and staff were all kept in their buildings for the

duration of the visit. Activists left as the police arrived. No arrests were made.

31st October: Fences at Bayer installations are continually being sabotaged.

30th October. The offices of Bayer owned Symrise in Marlow, Buckinghamshire were visited by around 6 people. Once in we walked around the offices, and bumped into somebody who rather stupidly told us he was from Bayer. The other employees denied having any link (apart from IT) to Bayer. We agreed to leave, but only if they faxed Bayer our leaflet and explained that they had been targeted due to their links (real or not) with Bayer. We left, before the police arrived, and threatened to return if we discovered a connection to Bayer...

29th October: 3 people were nicked for spraypainting anti-GM slogans on the road leading to Bayer CropScience's site in Widnes. The 3 were held for 16 hours, had their boots, trousers and coats taken by police and have been charged with criminal damage. They are bailed to appear in Runcorn magistrates court on Tuesday 4th November. The severity with which they were treated - 5 police vehicles were sent to deal with them and there was talk of calling in Special Branch! Bayer must be scared!

27th October: G.M. free picnic held outside Bayers Cambridge office.

15th October: The Bayer CropScience site at North Newbalds in North Yorkshire was targeted. Locks had liquid metal squirted into them, graffiti was sprayed and fencing was damaged.

14th October: Fifteen people occupied the foyer of Allianz-Cornhill, London, the main shareholders of Bayer. Police arrived and forcefully evicted all but one of them, who was allowed to stay and speak to a UK company director.

10th October: Three of us who were cycling to London (for the Tractors and trolleys demo), stopped off at Bayer's Newbury HQ. We were stopped by security whilst still some way up the road, we tried to get in the office unsuccessfully so we negotiated to have someone come down and see us. Steve Pinter (Head of Corporate Communications) would only talk to one of us, he said that Bayer was aware of the controversy and that they were open to the public. Hmmm.

3rd October: Bayer owned HM Starck, Aizlewoods Mill, Nursery Road, Sheffield. Visited. With security guards oblivious inside the building we spraypainted walls and doors with anti-gm crops slogans.

Bayer's headquarters in Newbury was visited in the night and had flyposters pasted up on walls, doors, sign posts and bins. The posters were headed 'notice to bayer employees' and urged workers to support the campaign by sending emails of protest, going slow on the job, and especially by contacting the campaign with information about Bayer.



Earth

DIARY

Your social life at a glance...

NOVEMBER

29 Buy Nothing Day www.buynothingday.co.uk

29 Campsfield: 10 Years Too Long! Tenth anniversary demonstration at Campsfield Detention Centre. Call 01865 558145 www.closecampsfield.org.uk

DECEMBER

1 Nottingham's Direct Action Forum (NaSA) 7pm at the Sumac Centre, 245 Gladstone Rd., Nottingham

3 Leeds EFl public meeting. 7pm The Adelphi, Briggate, Leeds. Information on activists' legal rights on demos etc.

1-12 COP 9, Milan, Italy. Convention on Climate Change. For info on events contact tamra@carbontradewatch.org

5-14 ASPIRE Squatted Social Space, Leeds. info@a-spire.org.uk www.a-spire.org.uk

6 March & Rally against Huntingdon Life Sciences 12 noon, Riverside car park, Huntingdon. Transport available from all of UK Call 0845 458 0630.

6 Fifth Manchester Radical Bookfair. Bridge 5 Mill, 22A Beswick Street, Ancoats. 11 am - 5pm www.radicalbookfair.org.uk

9 Bristol indymedia film screening Hat & Feather Walcot street, Bath. Free

10 International Animal Rights Day www.uncaged.co.uk/declarat.htm

13 Glasgow Anarchist Dayschool 10 am - 11pm The Annexe, 9a Stewartville St, Partick www.nocog.org/~autonomy/dayschool.html

13-15 Menwith Hill Spy Base women's peace camp and blockade. 01943 458 593 helenmenwith@yahoo.co.uk

18 Ilisu Dam Campaign, Refugee's Story: How UK Foreign Investment Creates Refugees. Party/cultural event at the Halkevi Community Centre, Stoke Newington Rd., Hackney. 7pm

22 Benefit for Leonard Peltier Defence Committee, Joiners Arms, St. Mary's St, Southampton with bands: Crowzone, Careless, Chihuahua Zycantah www.leonardpeltier.org

we can only list events & actions if you tell us about them! (See page 2 for contact details) Not all actions will be announced - contact your local group.

First!

New EF! Group

London EF! meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month in the Autonomy Club (Freedom Bookshop, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London)

Protest Sites

Bilston Woods - Stopping PFI extension of the A701 thru mature woodland 8 miles south of Edinburgh. Tel: 07986 632 429, web: www.biltstonglen-abs.org.uk, email: ukinfo@biltstonglen-abs.org.uk

Mansfield - Stopping housing development in Sherwood Forest. They've been served papers and are under threat of imminent eviction. Tel: 07890 165727, web: mysite.freemove.com/sherwood_camp/

Nine Ladies - The site at Nine Ladies in Derbyshire has successfully prevented quarrying in the Peak District National Park for the past few years. Tel: 07876 311 709, web: www.nineladies.uklinux.net, email: parky@nineladies.zoom.co.uk

Faslane Peace Camp - Still acting against the nuclear submarine in Scotland. Tel: 01436 820 901, email: contact@faslanepeacecamp.org.uk, web: www.faslanepeacecamp.org.uk

Bar End - See page 17!

McDonalds Attacked

Thursday 16th October was global anti-McDonalds day. Actions included a demo outside Leicester Square McDonalds and there was also an action against McShits at the Roman way retail park in Malvern, Worcs.

One McDonalds had it's windows bricked in broad daylight (!) and several other restaurant's windows spontaneously broke in the night.

Cardiff Activists Imprisoned

Cardiff cops arrested three people on Newport Road in the early hours after the local McMurder had it's locks superglued.

After handcuffing them and securing them in a police van, officers removed Val Swain from the van and beat her on the legs with a telescopic truncheon 'to change her thought processes'.

Several hours later police raided the suspects' houses removing anti-McDonald's leaflets. The three were charged with criminal damage, conspiracy to commit criminal damage and, ludicrously enough, assaulting police officers.



Then to add insult to injury the tosser of a magistrate refused them bail and remanded them. They were finally released on bail after 4 days and are next in court on 23rd December.

For more info see
www.mcspotlight.org.

What (didn't) Happened?

We at the ActionUpdate batcave didn't receive any reports of anti-Mcdonalds actions. This could be because nobody sent any in, but we suspect that not much actually happened in the UK. Admittedly the day of action wasn't as well publicised as it has been in the past and people are in to doing other campaigns now. Comments on this to the usual address on page 2.

HOW TO ... VISIT A HOUSE!

Cut out
and keep!

Section 42 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 empowers the police to impose conditions on demonstrations taking place outside someone's home.

Section 42 empowers a constable to impose directions verbally on persons demonstrating in the 'vicinity' of someone's dwelling, if he reasonably believes that their presence is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress. This includes the power to require you to leave the vicinity altogether. A constable can ask you to move even if your behaviour is entirely peaceful, so long as you're outside someone's home. Unlike the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986, there is no defence that your conduct was reasonable.

The most important point to note is that this act hasn't made home demos illegal. The situation is exactly as it was before until the police arrive at the scene. The offence is committed when you fail to comply with the police officer's directions to leave the area or to move a certain distance away from the dwelling.

The law is very vague. It does not define 'vicinity', so that will be for the constable or the courts to determine. Also, it doesn't specify a minimum time limit, during which period it would be an offence to return to the dwelling. It simply says that constables may give directions in order to prevent harassment, alarm or distress, and that they may impose conditions on those directions, such as where the demo may take place, and the number of people allowed to take part. There's also no defence under the act that the dwelling in question is also a business premises.

Like Sec 5 Public Order Act, breach of Sec. 42 is not an 'arrestable offence' as defined by Section 24 of PACE but you can be arrested by a constable at the time for failure to comply with a Section 42 notice.

When exercising their discretion in imposing directions on a home demo, the police must not act in a way which is incompatible with your European convention rights (Human Rights Act Section 6). This could create problems for the police, where a demonstration is taking place outside, say, a controversial animal breeding facility which also doubles up as someone's home. They may have to impose conditions such as a certain area at certain times rather than ban the demo completely.

The main limitation of Section 42 for the police is that no offence is committed by the home demo itself - only by failure to leave when asked to do so. Also Section 42 is not a 'preventive' power - the police can't say to you "You will be arrested if you go to X's house" They only enjoy the power when you are actually in the vicinity of someone's home. So if you do a home demo then leave the vicinity before the police arrive, there's nothing to stop you going back again.

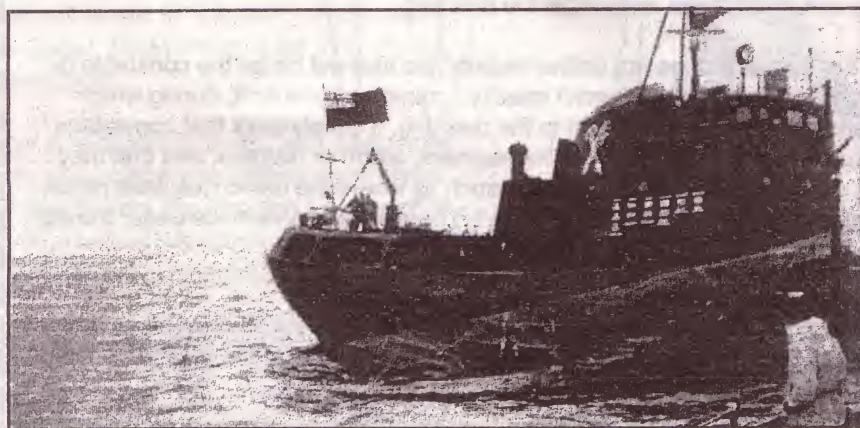
For more excellent activists legal info visit www.freebeagles.org



Sea Shepherd crew seized

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is an international marine conservation organization dedicated to the enforcement of international conservation law and campaigns to actively protect marine wildlife and ecosystems. They are famous for ramming and sinking several whaling ships.

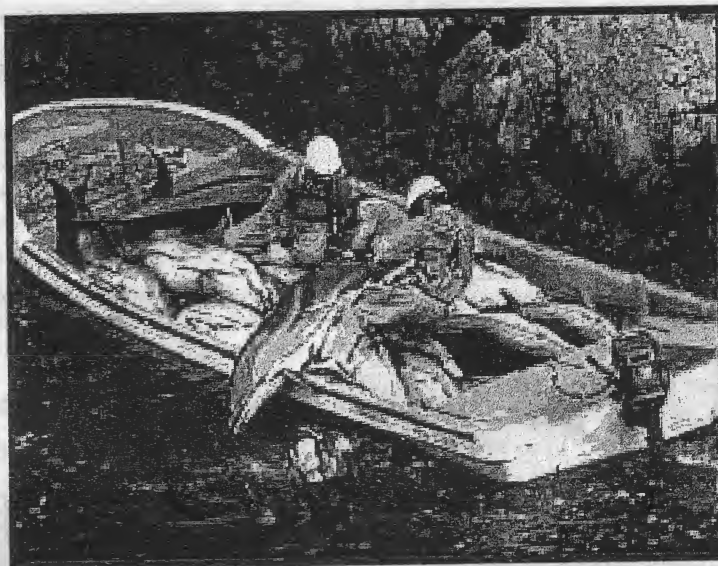
Sea Shepherd is currently in the midst of a campaign in Taiji, Japan, to stop the annual Japanese dolphin slaughter. Since late September, several Sea Shepherd volunteers have been in the waters around Taiji, risking their lives to document and try to stop the dolphin drive which claims the lives of thousands of dolphins and small whales each year. Despite death threats, police harassment and constant hardship, the Sea Shepherd crew members have remained in the area on a round-the-clock vigil.



On November 18th two Sea Shepherd crew members Allison Lance-Watson (US) and Alex Cornelisson (Netherlands) jumped into freezing waters and swam for an hour to untie and sink the nets penning a pod of dolphins awaiting slaughter. Allison and Alex were able to save the lives of 15 dolphins by creating an escape route back to the open sea. Both crew members were immediately arrested when they swam onshore and taken to a jail in nearby Shingu. They have not been allowed to communicate with any persons outside of the jail. See prison contacts.

During the next evening Japanese police raided the trailer park where the 2 remaining Sea Shepherd crew are based in Taiji. They boxed up all the property in the trailer including cameras, film, clothing, a computer and personal belongings leaving them stranded in Japan. Neither of the men was charged.

Sea Shepherd is organizing another "International Day of Protest Against Japanese Dolphin Slaughter" for 11am December 10th at Japanese Consulates around the world. In London contact Caroline O'Donnell cazsj1@hotmail.com, Margaux Dodds marineconnection@aol.com Tel/Fax +44 (0) 20 7499 9196 In Scotland: Corine Roux corineroux@hotmail.com Tel: +44.131.554.0850 For more information visit www.seashepherd.org/



Browne talks Bollocks

London Rising Tide's took action against BP on October 23rd at BP boss Lord Browne's talk at the Royal Institute of British Architects. Also present was a key decision-maker from the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD), who tolerated a passionate denunciation of likely EBRD funding for the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline. A disguised dissenter managed to make it inside, and delivered a searing speech halting Browne in mid-flow, condemning his company's appalling record throughout the world before she was aggressively removed.

For more info: www.risingtide.org.uk and www.baku.org.uk

Deadline for next issue 31st December

We can only publish what you send us - we want your rants - not just news

TARMAC SPREADS

New Homes for the Rich?

The Park Nook site is a small piece of woodland on the edge of Princes Park in Toxteth, Liverpool. It provides an important wildlife haven for foxes, bats and nesting birds. It is also a piece of land which has been used by local residents for many years for dog walking, picnicking and playing.

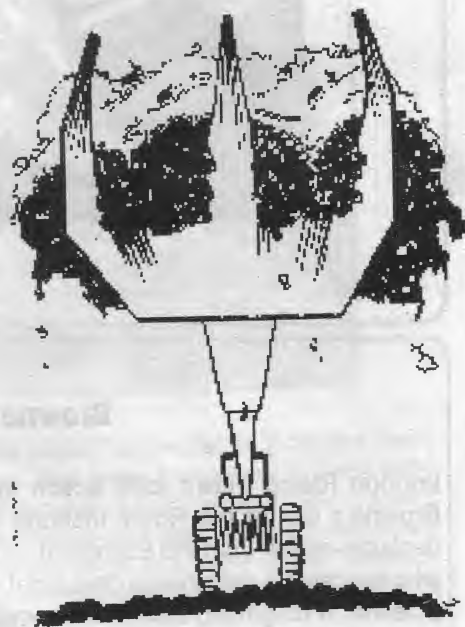
Four years ago a planning application was drawn up to build luxury flats on the area, this was contested and a protest camp set up. An application was also made to preserve Park Nook with Town Green status for the use of all the local residents. Unfortunately this failed but due to direct action threats the original construction company could not afford to continue to build on the site.

The contract to build the flats was bought by another company who attempted to start work on the site. However shortly after the contractors appeared on the scene protesters started to arrive and invade the site in brave attempts to stop the destruction. Sentinel Management security thugs removed protesters from the site by dragging and pushing them injuring one protester. The security firm erected a safety fence around the site whilst bigots in JCBs shouted that they hated Scousers, felled trees near the protesters and angry school kids.

At the end of the day big business in partnership with the rich had won that battle with all the trees felled and some protected trees damaged. However, the war for Park Nook has not finished, like the development at Crystal Palace that still has not been started on, the site could still be saved by more direct action.

Nature Reserve bulldozed

A nature reserve near Leamington Spa is in need of help. Bulldozers have moved in and are starting to destroy some wonderful habitat for wildlife. The reason why this is happening is not clear at the moment but it looks likely more destruction will take place over coming days. Locals would like to occupy the site as soon as possible and would like to hear from anyone who has some time spare. Call Aileen on 07771 547576.



There are hundreds of road schemes being fought by locals around the country. For a full list see www.roadalert.org.uk

Bar End Water Meadow Alert

The troubled case of the water meadow at Bar End near Winchester is to be covered in tarmac by yep you guessed it, Tarmac! The meadow was originally created as a nature reserve during the construction of the M3 and the destruction of Twyford Down in 1992-3 but now is to be turned into a park and ride car park.

Bar End residents say the scheme is useless as no one in the area will use the scheme. (does this mean they would rather drive into town instead?). However it looks like the plans are part of a planned extension to the retail park which is conveniently placed close to the M3. Tree houses and a tunnel system need defending so if you want to learn or show local people how its done go down to the camp. The camp is at the end of Bar End Road (an extension of Chesil St.) about a mile and a half from the railway station. Call 0776 46330565

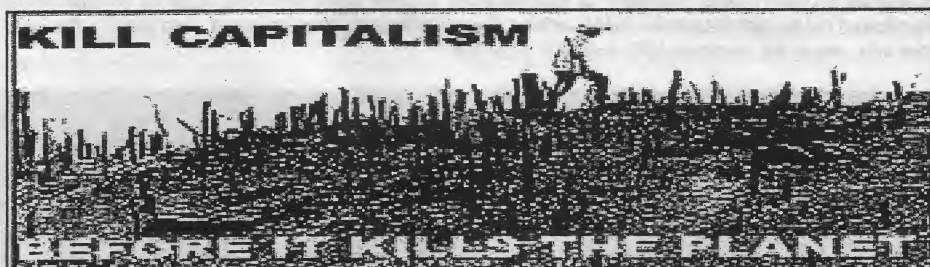
Thornborough Henges Update

As reported last month, The Thornborough Henges near Ripon in Yorkshire are under threat from our old friends Tarmac (the name says it all!). They want to begin extracting sand and gravel from around the henges in a few years time and are submitting their proposal within the next month, an action group has been formed to protect them. Local residents are outraged at this threat to the 5000 year old 'Stonehenge of the north' which remains of tremendous archaeological importance.

Tarmac are already quarrying north of the site, there is a nature reserve west of the site and they want to quarry east of it. To learn more about the proposed plans and the henges visit <http://friendsofthornborough.org> or visit the site in real life.

Scottish Super Quarry Plans

Lafarge Aggregates is making a fresh legal bid at the High Court in Edinburgh for plans for a £70m "super quarry" in Harris. The quarry plan was rejected by the Scottish Executive three years ago. Lafarge is appealing against this ruling that refused the firm's application to mine 600m tonnes of stone over the next 60 years from a National Scenic Area in the Scottish island of Harris.



PRISONERS OF WAR



They're Inside for us, we're outside for them

Supporting prisoners is vital solidarity in struggle. Support prisoners by writing to them, raising funds and publicising their situation, as well as continuing resistance.

Prison is designed to grind you down, and it isolates people from the outside world. Writing to prisoners helps break this down. Just sending a card with a few well wishes and some words about who you are can brighten up someone's day and make them feel remembered.

Prison life is dead boring, and any news that livens it up is generally welcome. Use your sense, don't write about things that are likely to get the prisoner into trouble with the screws or get you or anyone else into trouble. You need to include a return address, on the back of the envelope as well or it won't get to them. Check before sending books or anything else as rules vary from prison to prison - usually publications have to come direct from the publisher. You can normally send a couple of stamps or international reply coupons (available from the post office) and photocopied stuff is usually fine as well.

Prisoners of the Month

Although we're focusing on a couple of people each month, don't forget the rest! Check the ABC and ELP websites for a comprehensive list of political prisoners.

Allison Lance-Watson & Alex Cornelissen. Sea Shepard activists arrested for stopping dolphin hunting (see page 14). Write to Allison Lance-Watson, Shingu Police Station, Zip 647-0043, Wakayama-ken, Shingu-shi, Midorigaoka 3-2-57, Japan & Alex Cornelissen, Kushimoto Police Station, Zip 649-3503, Wakayama-ken, Nishimuro-gun, Kushimoto-cho 1799, Japan.

Eric Wildcat Hall. He's serving a **35-75** year sentence for helping ship arms to indigenous activists in Central America. Write to him at: Eric Wildcat Hall, #BL-5355, Unit I/A 10745 Route 18, Albion, PA 16475-0002, USA.

A.J. Copley. Currently serving time for anti-fascist activities, is permanently in solitary after defending himself from attack by the screws. Will hopefully be out in September 2004. Write to him at: A.J. Copley K75575, PO Box 99, Pontiac, IL G1764, USA

Prisoner News

As well as the Thessonliki 7 being released, Marco Heinrichs, Daniel Winter and Carston Schultze who were arrested for membership of a terrorist organisation in Magdeburg have been released on bail. Although the trial will still go ahead a key piece of prosecution evidence has fallen apart, so it's looking good for them. Continuing on a positive note, members of Kamina Libre in Chile have achieved a partial release where they're allowed out for half the week! SHAC activist Rae Schilling has been released, hurrah! For the latest prisoner info, check the Brighton ABC and ELP websites.

Resources and Contacts

ABC Brighton (anarchist prisoner support): PO Box 74, Brighton BN1 4ZQ, UK, www.brightonabc.org.uk
mail@brightonabc.org.uk

ALFSG (Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group): BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX, UK

Earth Liberation Prisoners: BM Box 2407, London WC1N 3XX, UK www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk
earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com

Legal Defence & Monitoring Group (LDMG): BM Box Haven, London WC1N 3XX, UK, Tel: 020 8245 2930 (24hr answerphone) ldmgmail@yahoo.co.uk, www2.phreak.co.uk/ldmg/



UK Ecological Direct Action Groups



If you know of any changes or additions to this list please tell us! If there is not a group in your area starting one is easy, get together with a couple of your mates and call yourself Earth First! That's what everyone here has done. For more contacts visit www.earthfirst.org.uk

Bath EFi

c/o PO Box 426
Bath BA1 2ZD

Brighton Eco Defence! ★

c/o 12 London Road
Brighton BN1 4JA

Dartmoor EFi

c/o PO Box 77
Totnes
Devon TQ9 5ZJ

Derby EFi! ★

derby.earthfirst@hushmail.com

Grampian EFi

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grampianearthfirst@hotmail.com

Gwynedd & Mon EFi

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London EFi! ★

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www.snet.co.uk/ef/

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ne991ta@yahoo.com

Norfolk & Waveney EFi

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07944 874 393
norfolkef@yahoo.co.uk

Nottingham EFi

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0845 458 9595
nottsef@veggies.org.uk

Reading Roadbusters

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South Devon EFi

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SWAN Network

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swangroup@yahoo.co.uk

Warwickshire Action Group

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Lemington Spa CV31 1EH
07771 547 576

Worthing Eco Defence

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worthing@eco-action.org
www.eco-action.org/porkbolter



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THE LAST WORDS...

Ecological destruction, animal abuse, war, globalisation, the exploitation and oppression of people everywhere - it's caused by the same powermongers, the same system. Against it, our struggle is one!

(You've had your fun now fuck off!)